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RR RUEH DU RUEH MR RUEH RN  
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2149  
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
RUEH AR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1659  
RUEH DS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1790  
RUEH RL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0407  
RUEH BY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1067  
RUEH DK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1416  
RUEH KM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 1847  
RUEH NR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4275  
RUEA IIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK  
RHMFISSE/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0913  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 001041

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AF/S FOR S. HILL,  
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU  
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS  
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS  
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/08/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION UNEVENTFUL

Classified By: DCM Katherine Dhanani. Reason: 1.4 (d)

[¶1.](#) (C) Ambassador presented credentials to GOZ President Robert Mugabe at 10 am on Thursday, November 22. Also presenting on November 22 were Ambassadors from Australia, Russia and Mexico (the latter resident in Pretoria). Over tea following the US presentation, Mugabe recounted his views on the ebb and flow of US-Zimbabwe relations since independence, expressing the hope that Ambassador McGee's tenure would coincide with the development of warmer bilateral ties. Speaking more in sorrow than in anger, Mugabe asserted that the USG is blindly following a British lead on Zimbabwe in order to secure continued British support in Iraq. Ambassador assured Mugabe that the USG also hopes that circumstances will permit better relations, and assured him that the Embassy in Harare would faithfully execute policy set in Washington on the basis of USG views of the situation in Zimbabwe.

[¶2.](#) (C) The conversation with Mugabe was more cordial than Ambassador's November 21 conversation with Foreign Minister Mumbengegwi, during which the ForMin threatened Ambassador with expulsion if he crossed the line and interfered with domestic politics in Zimbabwe. In fact, Mugabe urged the Ambassador to engage with the two MDC factions to encourage the opposition to unify; he claimed this would simplify GOZ efforts to promote a healthy democratic environment. Mugabe made no reference to ZDERA or to sanctions.

[¶3.](#) (C) The Chief of Protocol in the Office of the Presidency told Ambassador he would be able to meet one on one with President Mugabe on November 23 or 24.  
MCGEE